

CONCORDIA
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THE HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY OF GENOCIDE

A Course Being Offered By
Professors Frank Chalk and Kurt Jonassohn
On Wednesdays 8:25 - 10:30 pm
September 1981 - April 1982
For Additional Details: Turn Over → → →

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1981-82

THE HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY OF GENOCIDE

The word "genocide" only came into existence during the Second World War, when a word was needed to describe the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, religious, political or ethnic group, but genocide has been practiced in its evolving forms throughout history. Jews, Armenians, Gypsies, certain peoples of Africa and Asia, American Indians and many other groups have been marked by others for persecution and extermination.

This course will be divided into two parts. In part one, we will examine a series of case studies in order to arrive at an understanding of the processes that lead to genocide and also to look at forms of society that seem conducive to it. In part two, a number of theories will be examined from the point of view of whether they explain the conditions and processes that have led to genocide. A phenomenon like genocide clearly does not fall neatly within the boundaries of any one discipline. By studying genocide in an interdisciplinary perspective, we hope to achieve some understanding of a serious problem of most societies that has, so far, received much too little scholarly attention. Reading for the course will include Richard L. Rubenstein, The Cunning of History, and Norman Cohn, Europe's Inner Demons.

In 1981-82, The History and Sociology of Genocide will be offered by Professors Frank Chalk (History) and Kurt Jonassohn (Sociology) on Wednesdays, 8:25-10:30 p.m. at the Sir George Williams Campus of Concordia University. Students may register for History C395/2 and C395/4 (3 credits each) or Sociology C392/2 AA and C393/4 AA (3 credits each). However, both half-courses must be taken together and the first half is a prerequisite for the second half. Some background in history or sociology is desirable for participation in the course. Students with a genuine interest in studying the topic, but lacking this background, will be considered for admission by permission of the instructors. Members of the class will write a paper on a selected case of genocide and several assignments during the year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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message with the Secretary
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